



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

54078 US Hwy 2 West
Glasgow, MT 59230

June 3, 2010

Governor's Office – Mike Volesky
Montana State Library, Helena
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
 Director's Office
 Fish and Wildlife Division
 Parks Division
 Lands Section
 Communication & Education Bureau
 Commission Secretary
 Legal Unit
 Environmental Quality Council
MT Environ. Information Center
State Historic Preservation Office

Valley County Commissioners
Valley County Planner
Montana Audubon Council
MFWP Commissioner, Willie Doll
Representative Wayne Stahl
Bernie Hart
Frank III & Roy Jones
Patty Dull
Scott, Steve & Kyl Pattison
Boucher Ranch
Mitchell & Marjor Capdeville
Gifford & Kay Fjeld

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) are proposing to purchase a conservation easement on 463 acres near Hinsdale, Montana from Chris Christensen. The property is located two miles northwest of Hinsdale in the Milk River Valley along and Beaver Creek.

The proposed easement will conserve and enhance riparian habitats bordering Beaver Creek, perpetuate agriculture as the principle use of this productive river bottom farm, and maintain public access to this land. Wildlife species commonly observed on this property include white-tailed deer, ring-necked pheasants, Merriam's wild turkeys, mourning doves and a variety of waterfowl. This stretch of the Beaver Creek riparian corridor also supports a rich diversity of songbirds and small mammals. MFWP would like to purchase the easement and implement the easement terms while maintaining the present use of the farm. A rest rotation grazing system will be implemented to maintain and improve wildlife habitat on the property.

The easement terms area generalized in the enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) and can be accessed at www.fwp.mt.gov . A Management and Grazing Plan, and Socio-

Economic Report are also included in this report for your review. Hardcopies are available if requested by calling (406) 228-3700. The comment period will be open from June 3, 2010 to July 2, 2010. A public meeting will be held in Glasgow at the Valley County Courthouse on June 17, 2010 at 7:00 PM. Please submit any comments that you have by 5:00 P.M., July 2, 2010 to the address listed above, Attn: Lower Beaver Creek Conservation Easement. You can also email comments to jelletson@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patrick Gunderson", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick Gunderson
Region Six Supervisor